

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 634

Recognizing July 30, 2008, as the 40th anniversary of the enactment of the resolution establishing the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 30, 2008

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. ROBERTS, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. CLINTON, and Mr. FEINGOLD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

RESOLUTION

Recognizing July 30, 2008, as the 40th anniversary of the enactment of the resolution establishing the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs.

Whereas, on April 26, 1968, after viewing the CBS Emmy-award winning documentary “Hunger in America,” Senator George McGovern introduced a resolution to establish a Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs;

Whereas the resolution establishing the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs was enacted on July 30, 1968;

Whereas Senator George McGovern served as the Chairman of the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs from 1968 to 1977;

Whereas July 30, 2008, marks the 40th anniversary of the enactment of the resolution establishing the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs, which later became the foundation of the current Subcommittee on Nutrition and Food Assistance, Sustainable and Organic Agriculture, and General Legislation Jurisdiction of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry;

Whereas Senator George McGovern was committed to exposing the failure of Federal food assistance programs to reach citizens lacking in adequate quantities and quality of food;

Whereas Senators George McGovern and Robert Dole worked tirelessly in their respective roles on the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs to develop a bipartisan Federal response to hunger;

Whereas the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs played a key role in educating Congress, the Federal Government, and the Nation at large about the magnitude of hunger in the United States;

Whereas the work of the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs was vital to reforming the Federal food stamp program, culminating in the passage of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), which made the program more efficient and more accessible to those most in need by finally eliminating the requirement that Americans pay for a portion of their food stamps;

Whereas the work of the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs was essential to expanding the school lunch program established under the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) and permanently establishing the school breakfast program under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773), the child and adult care food program under section 17 of the National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766), and the summer food service program for children under section 13 of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1761);

Whereas the work of the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs was instrumental in the establishment of the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children established by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786) (WIC);

Whereas the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry remains committed to continuing the important work begun by Senators George McGovern and Robert Dole of providing a Federal response to hunger;

Whereas the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry provided a record-level amount of nutrition funding in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246; 122 Stat. 1651) to reform and strengthen Federal nutrition assistance programs;

Whereas, through the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246; 122 Stat. 1651), the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry made key improvements to the food stamp program, including—

- (1) increasing the food purchasing ability of low-income households by accounting for food cost inflation;
- (2) increasing the minimum benefit;

(3) encouraging retirement and education savings;
and

(4) allowing families to account for child care costs
in calculating food assistance;

Whereas, through the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of
2008 (Public Law 110–246; 122 Stat. 1651), the Senate
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
helped to strengthen the domestic food assistance safety
net by providing significant funding to increase com-
modity purchases for local area food banks;

Whereas, in 2008, more than 28,000,000 people in the
United States participate in the food stamp program;

Whereas, in 2008, more than 17,500,000 low-income children
receive free or reduced-price meals through the national
school lunch program;

Whereas despite Federal food assistance programs,
35,500,000 people in the United States, including
12,600,000 children, continue to live in households con-
sidered to be food insecure;

Whereas children who live in households lacking access to
sufficient food are more likely to be in poorer physical
health than children from food secure households; and

Whereas children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of
food insecurity because undernutrition can have adverse
impacts on emotional health, behavior, school perform-
ance, and cognitive development: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes July 30, 2008, as the 40th anni-
3 versary of the enactment of the resolution estab-

1 lishing the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition
2 and Human Needs;

3 (2) recognizes the substantial contributions the
4 Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs
5 made in ensuring that effective and efficient Federal
6 food assistance programs were accessible to those
7 most in need;

8 (3) recognizes that hunger continues to be an
9 issue plaguing the United States; and

10 (4) supports the continued efforts of Federal,
11 State, and local governments and private non-profit
12 organizations to eradicate hunger in the United
13 States.

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